

Military Veterans: Applications Now Open for Urban Farm Training in Baltimore



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Applications due Aug. 13, 2021

Applications are now open for Armed to Urban Farm, an intensive training program for military veterans interested in sustainable urban farming. Developed for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) in collaboration with the U.S. Botanic Garden, Armed to Urban Farm allows attendees to get an in-depth look at sustainable scale urban farming enterprises and to learn about urban farming as a career. This hybrid training will include online classroom sessions September 1, 8, 15, and 22, and hands-on sessions at urban farms October 4-5 in Baltimore, Maryland.

Armed to Urban Farm is an outgrowth of NCAT's popular Armed to Farm program, a week-long training that combines classroom sessions with farm tours. The two organizations partnered on similar urban farm trainings in 2018 and 2019.

"The Armed to Farm program has served nearly 900 military veterans from 43 states since it launched in 2013," said NCAT Executive Director Steve Thon. "We will continue working with the United States Botanic Garden to offer this unique learning opportunity for veterans interested in urban, sustainable agriculture and to grow their own business."

"The United States Botanic Garden is thrilled to help bring this program back to the Mid-Atlantic," said Saharah Moon Chapotin, Executive Director. "After working in Washington, D.C and Cleveland with the veteran community, it is wonderful to be able to expand this outreach in urban agriculture to the Baltimore area. We

the opportunity to partner again with NCAT and offer this impactful program to a new cohort of veterans."

Participants will learn about a wide range of subjects--including whole-farm planning, farm financial planning, urban crop production, urban soils, marketing away with a solid foundation in the basic principles of operating a sustainable farming enterprise. They also will join a nationwide network of supportive farm agricultural advisors. Instructors will include NCAT sustainable agriculture specialists, U.S. Department of Agriculture personnel, and experienced urban farm

Armed to Urban Farm is available to military veterans who are interested in starting an urban farm or who have been operating an urban farm for 10 years or more. The program is free for those accepted to the program.

Veterans can visit NCAT's Armed to Farm webpage to **complete an application by August 13, 2021**. Selection priority will be given to military veterans and partners from the Mid-Atlantic region. The number of participants will be limited. NCAT will notify selected participants by August 20, 2021.

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Photos are available of past Armed to Urban Farm events courtesy of NCAT and USBG

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THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY has been helping people build resilient communities through local and sustainable solutions, strengthen self-reliance, and protect natural resources since 1976. Headquartered in Butte, Montana, NCAT has six regional offices in Arkansas, California, Mississippi, Montana and Texas. Learn more and become a friend of NCAT at NCAT.ORG

About the United States Botanic Garden

The United States Botanic Garden (USBG) is the oldest continuously operating public garden in North America. The Garden informs visitors about the importance and value and diversity of plants, as well as their aesthetic, cultural, economic, therapeutic, and ecological significance. With over a million visitors annually, the Garden demonstrates and promotes sustainable practices. The USBG is a living plant museum accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and Botanic Gardens International. www.USBG.gov

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